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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/710,964	XU, YONGYONG
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit	
	JAY A. MORRISON	2168	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>21 July 2008</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under _Ex parte Quayle_, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-30 and 60-101</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-30 and 60-101</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1.   Claims 1-30 and 60-101 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under
section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the
applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by
another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent,
except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section
351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application
filed in the United States only if the international application designated the
United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English
language.

3.   Claims 1-3,5-10,15-19,22,25-28,60-65,67-74 and 76-81 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cohen et al. ('Cohen' hereinafter) (Patent

Number 7,035,926).

        As per claim 1, Cohen teaches

A virtual community system managing a plurality of users and a plurality of resources accessible by said plurality of users comprising: (see abstract and background)

A community server (web server, column 2, lines 14-16) to form a persistent virtual community for each of said resources; ('to' indicates intended use; Minton v. Nat 'l Ass 'n of Securities Dealers, Inc., 336 F.3d 1373, 1381, 67 USPQ2d 1614, 1620 (Fed. Cir. 2003) "whereby clause in a method claim is not given weight when it simply expresses the intended result of a process step positively recited." Examples of claim language, although not exhaustive, that may raise a question as to the limiting effect of the language in a claim are: (A) "adapted to" or "adapted for" clauses; (B) "wherein" clauses; and (C) "whereby" clauses. Therefore intended use limitations are not required to be taught, see MPEP § 2106 Section II(C), MPEP 2111.04 [R-3])

at least one component monitoring each user of said plurality of users accessing said plurality of resources; (tracking resources users are accessing, column 2, lines 34-36)

said community server associating each resource of said plurality of resources accessed by each user of said plurality of users to each user of said plurality of users; (user locations registered with map, column 2, lines 35-38)

said community server dynamically creating a persistent virtual community for each of said resources when a first user of said plurality of users is accessing each resource of said resources; (list of users on each web page, column 2, lines 50-52)

said virtual community including those users accessing said each of said

resource. (users accessing web page, column 2, lines 50-52)

As per claim 2, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

each of the plurality of resources is associated with a corresponding community.

(column 6, lines 53-56)

As per claim 3, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

each of the plurality of resources comprises a web resource. (column 2, lines 15-

20)

As per claim 5, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

each of the plurality of resources has a unique name. (column 2, lines 21-25)

As per claim 6, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

users automatically become members of the virtual community associated with

said particular resource when they access the resource. (column 2, lines 35-39)

As per claim 7, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

the community server is further operating to provide community services to

community members. (column 2, lines 51-56)

As per claim 8, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

the community server is further operating to enable communication between

community members. (column 2, lines 62-66)

As per claim 9, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

the community server is further operating to enable community members to

perform community activities. (column 2, lines 62-66)

As per claim 10, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

the community server is further operating to provide collaboration between

community members. (column 6, lines 40-44)

As per claim 15, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

the community server is further operating to enable new community services

provided by community members. (column 6, lines 50-55)

As per claim 16, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

the resources comprise private resources each having a unique name. (column

6, lines 58-62)

As per claim 17, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

the community servers is further operating to provide community member

authentication services. (column 7, lines 60-62)

As per claim 18, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

further comprising a web resource server associated with said particular

resource. (column 2, lines 15-20)

As per claim 19, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

each web resource server can contact at least one of said community servers to

provide community services. (column 2, lines 14-18)

As per claim 22, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

the community server is further operating to uniquely identify each community

member across multiple communities. (column 8, lines 4-8)

As per claim 25, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

the community server is further operating to keep statistical information regarding

the community. (column 8, lines 55-60)

As per claim 26, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

the community server is further operating to connect users who have accessed

the same resource. (column 2, lines 48-52)

As per claim 27, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

a proxy server coupled to the community server and a web resource server, the proxy server operating to serve a web resource content and connect to the community based on the resource being served. (column 2, lines 14-18)

As per claim 28, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

the community server is further operating to combine a plurality of communities into a larger community based upon similar resource use. (column 2, lines 25-30)

As per claim 60, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

A virtual community system associating a plurality of users and a plurality of resources accessible by each user of said plurality of users comprising: (see abstract and background)

a plurality of virtual communities each having a virtual community area, where resources are mapped to virtual communities and each virtual community of said plurality of virtual communities contains community and user access information for said resources; (user locations registered with map, column 2, line35-38; list of users; column 2, lines 50-52)

a user access database containing resource access records from each user of said plurality of users for each resource of said plurality of resources; (nodes visited by visitor, column 6, lines 54-65)

a virtual community server operating to monitor accesses from each of said users

to each of said resources, said persistent virtual community server also performing

additional functions including: recording accesses into said user access database;

mapping each accessed resource to a virtual community; dynamically creating said

persistent virtual community when a first user of said plurality of users is accessing said

resource; (list of users on each web page, column 2, lines 50-52)

updating said virtual community with access from said user to said resource.

(column 6, lines 52-66)

As per claim 61, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

the virtual community areas are stored in directories, files, or databases. (column

6, lines 52-60)

As per claim 62, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

the global universal virtual community server comprises a group of servers.

(column 2, lines 14-18)

As per claim 63, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

the user access database comprises a distributed database. (column 6, lines 55-

60)

As per claim 64, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

each virtual community area is created on demand when a first user accesses a

resource. (column 8, lines 12-18)

As per claim 65, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

the user access database creates a new user record only when a new user entry

is queried and is not in the database. (column 8, lines 18-24)

As per claim 67, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

each virtual community area comprises information regarding a particular

community. (column 8, lines 49-55)

As per claim 68, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

each virtual community area comprises server side components that support

user and community interactivity and activities. (column 2, lines 62-66)

As per claim 69, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

each virtual community area may utilize server side technologies including server

side script, CGI, Servlet, web services and weblogs. (column 9, lines 45-52)

As per claim 70, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

the user access database comprises the current status of individual user's

information. (column 8, lines 48-55)

As per claim 71, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

the user access database also stores user personal data including messages

from other users, preferences or privacy/security settings. (column 7, lines 55-60)

As per claim 72, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

the community server further to group different community areas together to form

a larger community for a bigger scope of resources. (column 2, lines 14-18)

As per claim 73, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

A method of forming resource-based virtual communities with a plurality of users

and a plurality of resources, the method comprising the steps of: (see abstract and

background)

allowing each of said users to access said plurality of resources; (users

accessing webpages, column 2, lines 15-20)

causing a server to monitor each user accessing a resource; (tracking resources

users are accessing, column 2, lines 34-36)

causing said server to associate each resource access with a particular user

accessing it; (user locations registered with map, column 2, lines 35-38)

causing said server to form a persistent virtual community for each of said

resources, said community comprising those users who have accessed a particular

resource, dynamically creating said persistent virtual community when a first user of

said plurality of users is accessing said resource (map listing users accessing webpage,

column 50-52)

As per claim 74, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

the resource being accessed by the user is a web resource, including a web site,

a web page, a newsgroup, or a discussion forum. (column 2, lines 14-18)

As per claim 76, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

each of the plurality of accessed resources is associated with a corresponding

resource based virtual community. (column 2, lines 62-66)

As per claim 77, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

the step of enabling new community services for community members. (column

7, lines 22-26)

As per claim 78, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

providing users community information and community services including hit

count, total users, current users, feedback, comments, ratings, reviews, references or

other useful information for the resource. (column 6, lines 52-60)

As per claim 79, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

enabling users collaboration with other community members including making comments, publishing reviews, rating resources, writing notes, sending messages, sharing whiteboards, chatting, helping each other, asking and answering questions, exchanging ideas, interests matching scheduling meetings, online auctions, online dating, broadcasting, marketing or advertisements. (column 2, lines 62-66)

As per claim 80, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

allowing each of a plurality of users to access the resources; (column 2, lines 14-18)

causing an accessed resource to return the original resource; (column 2, lines 30-34)

and causing the accessed resource to connect users to a virtual community based on the accessed resource. (column 2, lines 35-38)

As per claim 81, <u>Cohen</u> teaches

allowing each of a plurality of users to access the resources through a proxy server; (column 2, lines 14-18)

causing the proxy server to return the original resource; (column 2, lines 30-34)

and causing the proxy server to connect the user to a virtual community based on the accessed resource. (column 2, lines 35-38)

4.   Claims 4,11-14,20-21,24,29-30,66 and 75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

as being unpatentable over Cohen et al. ('Cohen' hereinafter) (Patent Number

7,035,926) in view of Matthews et al. ('Matthews' hereinafter) (Publication Number

2003/0050986 A1).

        As per claim 4, Cohen teaches

        Cohen does not explicitly indicate "each of the plurality of resources comprises a

non-web resource."

        However, Matthews discloses "each of the plurality of resources comprises a

non-web resource" (paragraph [0018], lines 1-6).

        It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine Cohen and Matthews because using the steps of "each

of the plurality of resources comprises a non-web resource" would have given those

skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by enhancing interaction between

community members. This gives the user the advantage of having a channel for

communication between members available.

        As per claim 11,

        Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operating to

provide notification to community members when a new user joins the community."

However, <u>Matthews</u> discloses "the community server is further operating to provide notification to community members when a new user joins the community" (paragraph [0057]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine <u>Cohen</u> and <u>Matthews</u> because using the steps of "the community server is further operating to provide notification to community members when a new user joins the community" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by enhancing interaction between community members. This gives the user the advantage of having a channel for communication between members available.

As per claim 12,

<u>Cohen</u> does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operating to enable community members to communicate with users outside the community."

However, <u>Matthews</u> discloses "the community server is further operating to enable community members to communicate with users outside the community" (email, paragraph [0057]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine <u>Cohen</u> and <u>Matthews</u> because using the steps of "the community server is further operating to enable community members to communicate with users outside the community" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by enhancing interaction between community members. This

gives the user the advantage of having a channel for communication between members available.

As per claim 13,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operating to provide community members with information regarding the community."

However, Matthews discloses "the community server is further operating to provide community members with information regarding the community" (paragraph [0021]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Matthews because using the steps of "the community server is further operating to provide community members with information regarding the community" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by enhancing interaction between members of the community. This gives the user the advantage of being able to communicate effectively with community members.

As per claim 14, Cohen teaches

the information comprises information presented to the community members while they are accessing the particular resource. (column 2, lines 62-66)

As per claim 20,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the community server is disposed behind a firewall to limit community members to users in an intranet."

However, Matthews discloses "the community server is disposed behind a firewall to limit community members to users in an intranet" (paragraph [0028]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Matthews because using the steps of "the community server is disposed behind a firewall to limit community members to users in an intranet" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by providing security for members of the community. This gives the user the advantage of having their data and community safe from security risks.

As per claim 21,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operating to provide user privacy preferences to community members."

However, Matthews discloses "the community server is further operating to provide user privacy preferences to community members" (block, paragraph [0064]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Matthews because using the steps of "the community server is further operating to provide user privacy preferences to community members" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by providing security for members of the community. This gives the user the advantage of having their data and community safe from security risks.

As per claim 24,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operating to organize an information content for each virtual community into a plurality of hyperlinked pages."

However, Matthews discloses "the community server is further operating to organize an information content for each virtual community into a plurality of hyperlinked pages" (paragraph [0021]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Matthews because using the steps of "the community server is further operating to organize an information content for each virtual community into a plurality of hyperlinked pages" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by improving access to information within the community. This gives the user the advantage of having a common browser interface whereby all users can access the pages.

As per claim 29

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operating to enable searches of each of the plurality of communities from a web site."

However, Matthews discloses "the community server is further operating to enable searches of each of the plurality of communities from a web site" (paragraph [0025]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Matthews because using the steps of "the community server is further operating to enable searches of each of the plurality of communities from a web site" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by improving access to information within the community. This gives the user the advantage of having a common browser interface whereby all users can access the pages.

As per claim 30,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operating to provide customized filtering preferences set by users, systems, and communities."

However, Matthews discloses "the community server is further operating to provide customized filtering preferences set by users, systems, and communities" (paragraph [0025]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Matthews because using the steps of "the community server is further operating to provide customized filtering preferences set by users, systems, and communities" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by improving access to information within the community. This gives the user the advantage of having a common browser interface whereby all users can access the pages.

As per claim 66,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "each virtual community area comprises a web server or web pages."

However, Matthews discloses "each virtual community area comprises a web server or web pages" (paragraph [0021]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Matthews because using the steps of "each virtual community area comprises a web server or web pages" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by improving access to information within the community. This gives the user the advantage of having a common browser interface whereby all users can access the pages.

As per claim 75, Cohen teaches

This claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claim 4 and is similarly rejected.

5.   Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen et al. ('Cohen' hereinafter) (Patent Number 7,035,926) in view of Katzman et al. ('Katzman' hereinafter) (Publication Number 2002/0046051 A1).

As per claim 23,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the community server is further operating to track community member's activities."

However, Katzman discloses "the community server is further operating to track community member's activities" (paragraph [0082]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Katzman because using the steps of "the community server is further operating to track community member's activities" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by trends to be tracked for future on-line business use. This gives the user the advantage of being able to have the choice of being tracked for future opportunities or other use.

6.   Claims 82-101 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen et al. ('Cohen' hereinafter) (Patent Number 7,035,926) in view of Dinan et al. ('Dinan' hereinafter) (Publication Number 2002/0097267 A1).

As per claim 82, Cohen teaches

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "allowing a client side software installed on a user's computer to discover the resource accessed by the user; and the client side software connecting the user to the virtual community based on the accessed resource."

However, Dinan discloses "allowing a client side software installed on a user's computer to discover the resource accessed by the user; and the client side software

connecting the user to the virtual community based on the accessed resource"
(paragraph [0037]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the
invention was made to combine <u>Cohen</u> and <u>Dinan</u> because using the steps of "allowing
a client side software installed on a user's computer to discover the resource accessed
by the user; and the client side software connecting the user to the virtual community
based on the accessed resource" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to
improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community
due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a
faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 83,

<u>Cohen</u> does not explicitly indicate "allowing the user to access the virtual
community and the accessed resource in a non-distributive way including using context
menus, status bars, popup windows, balloon help messages, task bars to embedded
frames inside a current web page."

However, <u>Dinan</u> discloses "allowing the user to access the virtual community
along and accessed resource in a non-distributive way including using context menus,
status bars, popup windows, balloon help messages, task bars to embedded frames
inside a current web page" (paragraph [0042]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the
invention was made to combine <u>Cohen</u> and <u>Dinan</u> because using the steps of "allowing

the user to access the virtual community and the accessed resource in a non-

distributive way including using context menus, status bars, popup windows, balloon

help messages, task bars to embedded frames inside a current web page" would have

given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to

become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience.

This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

      As per claim 84,

      Cohen does not explicitly indicate "each of the plurality of resources comprises a

non-Internet based product including a software, a device, an audio file, a video file, a

service or a commodity."

      However, Dinan discloses "each of the plurality of resources comprises a non-

Internet based product including a software, a device, an audio file, a video file, a

service or a commodity" (paragraph [0048]).

      It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "each of

the plurality of resources comprises a non-Internet based product including a software,

a device, an audio file, a video file, a service or a commodity" would have given those

skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more

involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the

user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 85,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the user connects to the virtual community through a mobile device such as a PDA or a cellular phone."

However, Dinan discloses "the user connects to the virtual community through a mobile device such as a PDA or a cellular phone" (paragraph [0039]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the user connects to the virtual community through a mobile device such as a PDA or a cellular phone" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 86,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "a client side software installable to a user's computer, the software operates to detect users activity of accessing a resource and connecting to a virtual community based on an accessed resource."

However, Dinan discloses "a client side software installable to a user's computer, the software operates to detect users activity of accessing a resource and connecting to a virtual community based on an accessed resource" (paragraph [0037]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "a client

side software installable to a user's computer, the software operates to detect users

activity of accessing a resource and connecting to a virtual community based on an

accessed resource" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the

invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to

improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and

more complete experience.

As per claim 87,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software also provides a toolbar

button installable on a user's browser to connect to the virtual community when selected

by the user."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software also provides a toolbar button

installable on a user's browser to connect to the virtual community when selected by the

user" (paragraph [0037]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client

side software also provides a toolbar button installable on a user's browser to connect

to the virtual community when selected by the user" would have given those skilled in

the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved

in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the

advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 88,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software also provides a context menu installable on the user's browser to connect to the virtual community when selected by the user."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software also provides a context menu installable on the user's browser to connect to the virtual community when selected by the user" (paragraph [0039]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software also provides a context menu installable on the user's browser to connect to the virtual community when selected by the user" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 89,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is installed manually by the user or automatically when the user accesses the resource."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is installed manually by the user or automatically when the user accesses the resource" (paragraph [0008]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client

side software is installed manually by the user or automatically when the user accesses the resource" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 90,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is further operated to display a virtual community page displayed in a separate frame, popup window or balloon window along with the resource."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is further operated to display a virtual community page displayed in a separate frame, popup window or balloon window along with the resource" (paragraph [0046]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software is further operated to display a virtual community page displayed in a separate frame, popup window or balloon window along with the resource" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 91,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is a standalone software agent."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is a standalone software agent" (paragraph [0062]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software is a standalone software agent" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 92,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is further operated to discover current web resources accessed by the user by monitoring web requests from browsers."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is further operated to discover current web resources accessed by the user by monitoring web requests from browsers" (paragraph [0008]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software is further operated to discover current web resources accessed by the user by monitoring web requests from browsers" would have given those skilled in the

art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 93,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is further operated to detect a current resource being used by hooking into a protocol handling chain, or using a protocol filter, a kernel driver, or a customized content handler; or by listening for system or windows events from browsers, or hooking into process, system or network APIs."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is further operated to detect a current resource being used by hooking into a protocol handling chain, or using a protocol filter, a kernel driver, or a customized content handler; or by listening for system or windows events from browsers, or hooking into process, system or network APIs" (paragraph [0008]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software is further operated to detect a current resource being used by hooking into a protocol handling chain, or using a protocol filter, a kernel driver, or a customized content handler; or by listening for system or windows events from browsers, or hooking into process, system or network APIs" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the

community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 94,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is a browser."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is a browser" (paragraph [0008]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software is a browser" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 95,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is further operated to make multiple connections to multiple virtual communities based on multiple resources the user is accessing and thus enabling users to participate in multiple communities simultaneously."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is further operated to make multiple connections to multiple virtual communities based on multiple resources the

user is accessing and thus enabling users to participate in multiple communities

simultaneously" (paragraph [0008]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client

side software is further operated to make multiple connections to multiple virtual

communities based on multiple resources the user is accessing and thus enabling users

to participate in multiple communities simultaneously" would have given those skilled in

the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved

in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the

advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 96,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is a browser plugin

integrated in a user's existing web browser."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is a browser plugin integrated

in a user's existing web browser" (paragraph [0042]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client

side software is a browser plugin integrated in a user's existing web browser" would

have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user

to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user

experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete

experience.

As per claim 97,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the browser plugin includes browser helper

objects, plugins, applets, Javascript, flash, ActiveX object, content, dynamic html,

connection protocol filters." (paragraph [0008])

However, Dinan discloses "the browser plugin includes browser helper objects,

plugins, applets, Javascript, flash, ActiveX object, content, dynamic html, connection

protocol filters" (paragraph [0008]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the

browser plugin includes browser helper objects, plugins, applets, Javascript, flash,

ActiveX object, content, dynamic html, connection protocol filters" would have given

those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become

more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives

the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 98

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software can be a special

component, shared object, dynamic library, driver or other extensions."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software can be a special component, shared object, dynamic library, driver or other extensions" (paragraph [0046]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software can be a special component, shared object, dynamic library, driver or other extensions" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 99,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is further operated to detect the current software used by the user and then connect to an associated virtual community based on that resource."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is further operated to detect the current software used by the user and then connect to an associated virtual community based on that resource" (paragraph [0046]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software is further operated to detect the current software used by the user and then connect to an associated virtual community based on that resource" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to

become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 100,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software is statically or dynamically linked to a software resource and further operated to run along with the software resource when the software resource is started by the user."

However, Dinan discloses "the client side software is statically or dynamically linked to a software resource and further operated to run along with the software resource when the software resource is started by the user" (paragraph [0050]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Cohen and Dinan because using the steps of "the client side software is statically or dynamically linked to a software resource and further operated to run along with the software resource when the software resource is started by the user" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

As per claim 101,

Cohen does not explicitly indicate "the client side software resides the software resource to provide new functions, features, services and applications."

However, <u>Dinan</u> discloses "the client side software resides the software resource to provide new functions, features, services and applications" (paragraph [0046]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine <u>Cohen</u> and <u>Dinan</u> because using the steps of "the client side software resides the software resource to provide new functions, features, services and applications" would have given those skilled in the art the tools to improve the invention by allowing the user to become more involved in the community due to improvements in the user experience. This gives the user the advantage of a faster and more complete experience.

Response to Arguments

7.   Applicant's arguments filed 7/21/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that <u>Cohen</u> does not disclose a "community server". Respectfully, it is noted that <u>Cohen</u> discloses a server (column 2, lines 14-16), which meets the requirements of the limitation. It is noted that the applicant reads a lengthy description into the claimed "community server", however given the required broadest reasonable interpretation the server in Cohen meets the claimed "community server" since no description of community is included in the claim. Therefore <u>Cohen</u> discloses the limitation. It is suggested that the applicant further describe what entails a community server in order to distinguish it from the server in <u>Cohen</u>.

Applicant argues that Cohen does not disclose "forming a persistent virtual community" that is based on said resource. Respectfully, it is noted that Cohen discloses users which are mapped to a webpage where the map indicates who and how many users are currently at the webpage (column 2, lines 40-52). It is submitted that this mapping within the webserver forms a persistent virtual community since the map is stored or persistent on the webserver and a community is formed based on the users currently on a given webpage. Therefore Cohen discloses the limitation.

Applicant argues that Cohen does not disclose "a list of users". Applicant further argues that a community is more than a list of users and is an independent entity. Respectfully, it is noted that Cohen discloses webpages which store the list of users mapped to this page (column 2, lines 45-52), which meets the requirement of an independent entity. Regardless, these limitations more specifically describing a community are not present in the limitation and it is suggested that the applicant consider adding more descriptive detail regarding what a community entails in order to overcome the rejections of record.

Applicant argues that Cohen does not disclose "for each said of plurality of resources, a persistent virtual community is formed". Respectfully, it is noted that Cohen discloses webpages with users currently on each respective webpage (column 2, lines 40-52), where the webpages are the plurality of resources and the forming of the persistent virtual community is accomplished by users logging onto the webpage. Therefore Cohen discloses the limitation.

Applicant argues that Cohen does not disclose "dynamically creating said persistent virtual community when said user is a first user accessing said resource" because Cohen's maps are created beforehand. Respectfully, it is noted that an interpretation of a community could be that a community does not exist until there are users present within the community, and clearly in Cohen there cannot be a community until there are users on the website. Therefore Cohen discloses the limitation.

Applicant argues that Matthews does not disclose providing notification to community members when a new member joins the community. Respectfully, it is noted that Matthews discloses that when a member subscribes to a group there can be an automated process such as automated group email alerts (paragraph [0052], lines 1-20). It is submitted that therefore Matthews discloses the limitation.

Applicant argues that Diana does not disclose allowing a client side software installed on a user's computer to discover the resource accessed by the user; and the client side software connecting the user to the virtual community based on the accessed resource. Respectfully, it is noted that Diana discloses client side software which can be used with interactive VR communities, which are clearly detected by the installed client-side tools (paragraph [0011]), which discloses the claimed limitation.

Conclusion

8.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

The prior art made of record, listed on form PTO-892, and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jay A. Morrison whose telephone number is (571) 272-7112. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Vo can be reached on (571) 272-3642. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Tim T. Vo/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2168

Jay Morrison   Tim Vo
TC2100   TC2100

Application Number	Application/Control No.	Applicant(s)/Patent under Reexamination	
	10/710,964	XU, YONGYONG	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	JAY A. MORRISON	2168	